

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL14 September 2016Report by Deputy Chief ExecutiveARGYLL AND SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS REGIMENTAL MUSEUM PROJECT –
DONATION**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The Council has been approached and asked to consider making a donation to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Museum Project which is located in Stirling Castle.

RECOMMENDATION

2. Council is asked to consider a donation of £1000 to support the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Museum Project.

BACKGROUND

3. The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders Museum is located in the King's Old Building of Stirling Castle, a connection which dates back to 1794. With the withdrawal of Ministry of Defence funding to support many military museums in 2011, the Argyll's Museum is no longer financially sustainable under its existing model of operation.

4. The Trustees of the museum have however produced a redevelopment plan to place the Museum on a sure footing and conserve this important piece of military heritage for future generations.

5. The Regiment's traditional recruiting area covered ; Argyll & Bute, Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and East Renfrewshire, Dunbartonshire, N. Lanarkshire, Stirlingshire and Clackmannanshire. The wider Renfrewshire area was a particularly strong source of recruits, notably in the two world wars but many soldiers have been drawn from the area since then.

REPORT

6. Funding to support the Museum currently comes from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Trust, profit gained from the Museum shop and visitor donations. The Museum has attracted 138,000 visitors over the past three years.

7. In 2013 a feasibility study was established to examine the future of the Museum arising from this grants totalling £54,500 emerged and was used to bring about improvements in the Museum. This has been the catalyst for the creation of a project to secure the longer term financial and visitor viability and sustainability of the Museum.

8. Sources of income levered in to support the initiative is anticipated from ; Heritage Lottery Fund, Public Appeal, Corporate Sponsor, Trusts & Foundations, Trust's own resources, Volunteers, Historic Environment Scotland – a total of £3,755,788 is anticipated to support the project.

RECOMMENDATION

9. Council is asked to consider a donation of £1000 to support the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Museum Project.

Report Author; Jim Sneddon, Head of Democratic & Partnership Services, Ext 3744